

From: Elizabeth Lloyd; REDACTED@gmail.com
Date: Sat, 20 Oct 2018 at 14:59
Subject: Re: First Minister at Newsxchange
To: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk

[Redacted]

I appreciate your response but I'm afraid the differences you see aren't differences that would be evident to anyone else (see programme for an example) - and the fact the producers don't seem to see them demonstrates that.

As you know when we originally discussed this I agreed it was an excellent opportunity and it is with regret that we are now having to forego it. I have to say I feel quite personally let down by the position we've been put in.

While I recognise the benefits to us and to the conference of FM hosting the reception, it should have been clear that inviting Bannon would put the First Minister in an intolerable position and that this would be the likely outcome - if that wasn't thought through it only adds to naivety of the Bannon invitation.

The invitation speaks to a trend we find deeply worrying of normalising and accepting such views and while making our point in private to a selected audience is one option, the clearest way to express our concerns and to avoid any idea that we would legitimise either his views or his invitation is not to appear. As I hope is clear it is with regret that we find ourselves here.

Should the BBC/ EBU's plans change let me know, but I'm not requesting that as it's for you/ them to invite who they wish.

Happy to discuss in the week if you wish.

Best

Liz

On Sat, 20 Oct 2018 at 14:24, REDACTED@bbc.co.uk wrote:

Hi Liz

I'm just sending this to you - not the group.
I worry that the FM's decision is based on a bit of a misunderstanding.

It's an EBU conference, which travels round Europe. The indigenous broadcaster (ie us this year) acts as host in terms of providing logistical support and a resident producer ([Redacted]). The broadcaster tends to advise on which city and venues to use - and we chose to come to Edinburgh rather than London, which would have been significantly easier for most of the delegates. We also lend them talent- but they also use non BBC talent too.

Speaker invitations like Bannon come from the EBU, not the BBC. So it's not gone via Tony Hall.

The reception which we had hoped the FM would speak at is a BBC event - it's what the host broadcaster traditionally does (just FYI it's not paid for by the licence fee).

So there's a clear difference. The EBU is in the driving seat on the business of the conference. The BBC welcomes delegates with a reception the evening before - And CNN has a closing reception in the same spirit.

From time to time the EBU will invite newsmakers - this year Bannon is one, the Parkland victims are another - as well as news practitioners. Controversial ones get a very hard time.

The Bannon invitation is from them in that spirit. The FM invitation is from us. They are different invitations to distinct events.

There's no suggestion at all that the FM's presence at a BBC reception endorses anything in the agenda of the EBU event - she's invited on her own merit to a separate function.

I'd very much like to think you might reconsider. A welcome to the key broadcasters from all over the world is truly all we want - of course the FM is free to say whatever she wishes. Bringing the conference to Scotland was a big call for us, and the FM's audience on the Tuesday night (to which Bannon is not invited) will be hungry to hear from her. The benefits to "brand Scotland" could be significant. Many of the international delegates might have made it as far as London before. A robust, lively and punchy (not literally!) conference is a good thing. Teeing it up the night before is critically important.

So, separate events. Separate invitations. Can that help make a difference to your views on this?

[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Oct 2018, at 12:45, Elizabeth Lloyd REDACTED@gmail.com wrote:

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email.

Having considered the issue it is with regret that the First Minister will not be available to host the reception given the BBC decision to invite Mr Bannon and to provide his views with such a prominent platform.

While it is of course for the BBC to decide who you invite and what platform you give them, for us an appearance by the First Minister would risk both legitimising his views and being

seen as an endorsement by the First Minister of the decision by the BBC to provide him with such a prominent platform which we are not prepared to do.

A discussion on the impact of populism and how it challenges the media does not in our view require providing a platform for such views through a keynote address regardless of any post speech discussion. That in my view provides an opportunity to amplify the alt-right and fake news messages rather than to discuss and debate the media's role and responsibility in relation to them.

It is quite unbelievable but regrettably not surprising to us that the BBC consider this an appropriate approach to take.

It is disappointing that by hosting him in the manner that you are you have created a situation where your delegates will not be able to hear from the First Minister, it is also deeply disappointing to have this done as a late addition to the programme putting us and no doubt other speakers in a very difficult position.

I understand Lord Hall has requested a meeting with the First Minister while he is in Edinburgh. If we are able to schedule that I'm sure this matter may be discussed further at that point.

regards

Liz

Elizabeth Lloyd
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From: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk
Date: Friday, 19 Oct 2018, 11:46 am
To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth), Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; Bowman K (Katy) Katy.Bowman@gov.scot
Cc: Bowman K (Katy) Katy.Bowman@gov.scot; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk
Subject: RE: First Minister at Newsxchange

Dear Liz,

As promised, here is the information you requested.

As you mentioned, it will be really useful to talk all this through and possibly involve Sarah Smith as she will be moderating the Bannon session.

Firstly, I understand your reservations and it is, of course, something we have discussed at length.

A key factor in our decision making is that this conference isn't open to all members of the public. It is a forum for journalists and media executives.

Why?

News Xchange is a journalism conference which seeks to explore the main industry trends and challenges delegates to understand the wider political and social context.

We have a wide range of speakers from Tony Hall to the Parkland student (Dara Rosen) and faculty advisor (Melissa Falkowski), from David Rhodes, CBS News President, to Matthew Caruana Galizia. We provide the opportunity for a wide range of voices and viewpoints to be expressed within a balanced and relevant context. While some of our speakers do attract more "buzz" than others in the run-up to the event, "shock value" is not something that factors in to our agenda-setting.

The single largest issue facing every delegate in our audience (and every Western nation, in particular) is the rise of populism and what may well turn out to be the transformation of the political landscape of Western democracies. Mr. Bannon is a powerful and influential figure, both in the US and in Europe, promoting an anti-elite movement with this transformation as its goal. We believe that our delegates will benefit greatly from hearing his thoughts and then, led by the BBC's Sarah Smith, an experienced and skilled journalist, questioning, challenging and debating. To do otherwise would be to ignore what is happening in the world: there is a powerful challenge to democracies from within.

He has been invited to speak at News Xchange this year because his views are relevant to understanding the political climate of society at large and therefore to the media industry.

We also consider it our journalistic responsibility to scrutinise his viewpoint.

Steve Bannon will not be paid a speakers' fee for appearing on stage

How?

Steve Bannon will be appearing at the EICC on Wednesday morning. The morning will start with a keynote speech by Lord Hall.

The Steve Bannon session will be moderated by Sarah Smith, BBC Scotland Editor, followed by an open Q&A with delegates. We expect this to be a rigorous, in depth and thorough examination of his views over 60 minutes.

Our conference is for professionals involved in the news industry and not members of the general public.

Opening reception

Steve will not be at the National Museum of Scotland during the First Minister's proposed address. In fact, the opening reception is an separate event which also encompasses a smaller meeting of EBU executives called the News Assembly.

We believe our delegates would be very eager in hearing from the First minister and, likewise, this represents a good opportunity for the First Minister to communicate her message to an influential crowd.

Publicity

His name has been announced to members of the News Xchange distribution list which totals around 8000 journalists. His name has been added to the 'Program' (US spelling!) section on the website.

We have placed his invitation in a specific journalistic context which includes the knowledge he has attended recent events held by our colleagues at The Economist and Bloomberg.

Thanks

[Redacted]
News Xchange

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot [mailto: Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot]
Sent: 18 October 2018 16:42
To: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; Katy.Bowman@gov.scot
Subject: First Minister at Newsxchange

Dear [Redacted]

Firstly apologies as I wasn't able to make the conference call yesterday, however having spoken with my colleagues I now have some very serious concerns regarding the First Minister's engagement with the event and how this may be perceived.

My colleagues advised me that the two day conference will now include Steve Bannon as a Key note speaker - to be followed by a Q&A. This was clearly not part of the pitch [Redacted] made when asking for FM to speak at the opening event. Whilst it is of course entirely for EBU to determine who you choose to invite to such an event and how you enable them to present themselves, you will of course understand that this presents considerable reputational issues for me to consider.

I'd be happy to have a further chat about it directly, but as an initial request it would be helpful to know when he's appearing and the details of how you intend to enable [Redacted] presentation to be thoroughly questioned and challenged.

I understand you told my colleagues that his appearance had been confirmed publicly, I'm afraid I'm struggling to identify any public reference to it at all and I'd be grateful for that.

In addition - what if any media coverage is expected of the conference - is it closed event with no media coverage expected, or will there be reports or perhaps interviews scheduled with speakers.

I appreciate that inviting someone like that to the conference provides a certain shock value and no doubt a buzz around the conference that you would wish to generate, however it raises significant concerns for me in relation to the involvement of the First Minister.

I look forward to hearing from you - given the proximity of the event I'd appreciate information and an opportunity to discuss as early as possible to enable us to make an informed decision.

Best wishes

Liz Lloyd

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